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FICTION

SPECTRUM

David Wise. Viking, \$13.95 ISBN 0-670-66210-4

Veteran CIA bureaucrat Townsend Black has survived the purges of the 1970s and in 1981 is Director of the Company. Behind his urbane facade, Black is a crook who has been using the Agency to manufacture a small secret arsenal of tactical nuclear warheads. London Chief of Station Robert Travers, who has kept Black's secret for years, finally decides to go public, and contacts an influential Senator. When the Senator's staff starts to investigate the charges, the Director sets a Company assassin on Travers's tail. While a desperate search goes on to unearth the location of the nuclear arsenal near Washington, Travers and his girl friend race around Europe trying to evade the assassin. The conspiracy plot may be familiar, but Wise ("The Espionage Establishment") supplies enough authentic sounding details of CIA operations to make this fast-moving thriller entirely credible. *BOMC alternate.*

[February 26]